

Appln. No. 10/685,274

Amendment Date: December 5, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2006

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REMARKS

This Amendment is to respond to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated November 6, 2006 relating to the need to provide a complete listing of all of the claims, the text thereof; a proper status identifier for each claim; and to re-write the dependent claims in independent form. To overcome these objections, Applicant has listed all 20 original claims filed herein; has indicated for each claim a proper status identifier; and has rewritten a dependent claim into independent form.

Accordingly, all 20 original claims have been cancelled and original claims 1, 4 and 9 have been merged into a new independent claim 21. Original claim 5 is now new claim 22 and original claim 20 is now new claim 23. Claims 18 and 19 appear to be redundant in view of the present amendments and therefore are cancelled. Cancellation of claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17 and 20 reflect the allowance thereof and issue to patent in parent application 10/050,365, now U. S. Patent 6,631,859.

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Applicant would point out that a Petition to Make Special was filed herein on December 15, 2003 and no action thereon was taken until granted August 16, 2006, two years and eight months after the filing date. In the meantime, Applicant's Attorney was compelled to respond to a "Missing Parts" official action that duplicated papers previously filed in this case, resulting in an obvious waster of time and expense.

Applicant respectfully contends the present amendments place this case in proper order for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner's reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully solicited.

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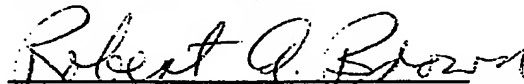
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Applicant's Attorney may be reached at 847/272-3182, or
847/272-3176, or FAX 847/272-5424, if the need arises for any
further discussion in connection with the matters at hand.

Respectfully submitted,

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